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**For Immediate Release**

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**GLENDIVE, HELENA, KALISPELL, MISSOULA AND WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS  
PROJECTS AWARDED \$200,000 IN TOURISM “BED TAX” GRANTS**

**Helena, MT—October 12, 2005** - The Makoshika Dinosaur Museum in Glendive, Holter Museum of Art in Helena, Conrad Mansion in Kalispell, Missoula Art Museum, and the Castle Museum in White Sulphur Springs have been awarded a total of \$200,000 from the Department of Commerce’s Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) “bed tax” grant funds to assist in the completion of tourism-related facility improvements.

Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony J. Preite approved the TIIP grant funding for the five tourism-related projects following recommendations from the Department of Commerce Montana Promotion Division staff and the state’s Tourism Advisory Council. The five TIIP grant recipients were selected from 37 applications submitted for funding to the Commerce Department.

“The investment of tourism ‘bed tax’ dollars into these five projects will leverage over \$3.4 million in community, state, federal and foundation dollars, creating and supporting local construction and service industry jobs,” Preite said in approving the TIIP Grant Awards. He added that “these projects strengthen Montana’s appeal as a visitor destination, something that benefits the entire state.”

The 2005 TIIP Grant Awards include:

\$20,000	Meagher County Historical Association for a window restoration project at the “Castle” Museum in White Sulphur Springs
\$50,000	Missoula Art Museum for construction of the Grand Foyer portion of the Missoula art museum’s “Renaissance, Renewal, & Renovation Campaign”
\$38,600	Makoshika Dinosaur Museum for a fire suppression system and exhibit expansion at the downtown Glendive facility that is part of the Montana Dinosaur Trail

\$50,000	Holter Museum of Art for a roof renovation project at the downtown Helena facility
\$41,400 electrical	Conrad Mansion for a total upgrade of the historical Kalispell mansion's system

Since 1995, TIIP grants have provided over \$2.2 million in tourism “bed tax” funds to 49 projects in 33 Montana communities. Over that period, TIIP grants have assisted in the development of \$29 million in tourism-related projects.

TIIP grants funds are provided by 4% of the state’s tourism “bed tax” which is assessed on the lodging price of all accommodations across Montana, including campgrounds. The grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a \$1 local match for every \$2 provided by grant funds.

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